

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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SUBJECT: GIOVANNI AGNELLI'S VIEWS ON ITALIAN POLITICAL
PROBLEMS AND COOPERATION WITH PCI

1. /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/, JULY 7, CARRIERS A REPORT OF AN
INTERVIEW WITH GIOVANNI AGNELLI BY PETER NICHOLS OF THE LONDON
/TIMES/. THE ESSENCE OF IT IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. THE ELCTORAL RESULTS SHOW THAT THE ITALIAN ELECTORATE
WISHZS TO BE GOVERNED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE COMMUNISTS. THE DC MUST THEREFORE ASSUME THE RES-
PONSIBILITY OF GOVERNING THZ COUNTRY WITHOUT HAVING A PRE-
ESTABLISHED ARITHMETICAL MAJORITY. THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST
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AND CAN BE DONE AGAIN.

3. THE REAL PROBLEM IS NOT HOWEVER PARLIAMENTARY, BUT ECONOMIC, AND AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM CAN ONLY BE REALIZED THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM MUST COVER THE FOLLOWING FUNDAMENTAL POINTS: A) REDUCE INFLATION; B) IMPROVE THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS; C) REDUCE THE DEFICIT IN PUBLIC SPENDING WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT.

4. IF A PROGRAM COVERING THESE THREE POINTS HAS THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE POLITICAL FORCES AND THUS A PROSPECT OF SUCCESS, IT WILL RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL CREDITS FROM AMERICA AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

5. WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS, AGNELLI IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "CATHOLICS AND COMMUNISTS WENT TO THE ELECTIONS WITH A COMMON FOREIGN POLICY. BOTH ARE WESTERN-ORIENTED. BOTH ARE EUROPEAN AND BOTH ARE FOR NATO." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER BERLINGUER IS SINCERE ON THE ABOVE POINTS, AGNELLI REPLIED: "BERLINGUER NOW SAYS IN A SENSE THAT NATO WOULD DEFEND THE COMMUNIST PARTY FROM INTERFERENCE BY MOSCOW ... HE IS CERTAINLY CONVINCED OF IT. I DO NOT KNOW IF HE THINKS THIS IS POSSIBLE BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT HE WANTS IT TO BE. I DO NOT HAVE THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT OF IT."VOLPE

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